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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/555,286

10/17/2006

Juan Miguel Jimenez Mayorga

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EXAMINER

LOEWE, SUN JAE Y

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1626

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

07/22/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/555,286	Applicant(s) JIMENEZ MAYORGA ET AL.	
	Examiner SUN JAE Y. LOEWE	Art Unit 1626	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 June 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 and 20-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 11-15 and 22-25 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10-20,21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☒ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

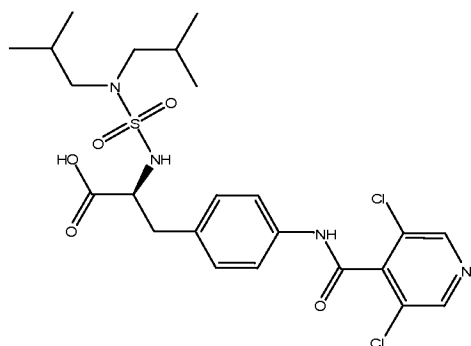
- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>11-2-2005; 10-17-2006</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-15 and 20-25 are pending in the instant application.

Election/Restrictions

2. Applicant's election with traverse of Group I, and species of Example 11 (structure below), in the reply filed on June 24, 2008 is acknowledged.



The traversal is on the ground(s);

“ N-SO₂-N-C-CH₂-phenyl.” *Id.* The Office has failed to recognize that the special technical feature linking the claims is not limited to the core structure cited by the Office, but also encompasses the position and identity of the radicals R₁ to R₆, which are also part of the structure of instant compounds of formula (I). ”

The argument has been fully considered, however, it is not found to be persuasive. It is maintained that the common structure shared by all compounds of Formula I is

“ N-SO₂-N-C-CH₂-phenyl”, as all other structural features are variables.

The restriction requirement between Groups I-III is still deemed proper. It is hereby made FINAL.

3. Pursuant MPEP 1893.03

“(Excerpts)

Once the national stage application has been taken up by the examiner, prosecution proceeds in the same manner as for a domestic application with the exceptions that:

(A) the international filing date >(or, if appropriate, the priority date)< is the date to keep in mind when searching the prior art; and

(B) unity of invention proceeds as under 37 CFR 1.475.

.....

¶ 18.20 *National Stage Election of Species in 35 U.S.C. 371 Applications*

This application contains claims directed to more than one species of the generic invention. These species are deemed to lack unity of invention because they are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

The species are as follows:

[1]

Applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single species to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The reply must also identify the claims readable on the elected species, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered non-responsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a). ”

the search and examination detailed in this office action was performed following the guidelines provided by MPEP 803.02

“(Excerpts)

Markush-type claim will be examined fully with respect to the elected species and further to the extent necessary to determine patentability. If the Markush-type claim is not allowable **, the provisional election will be given effect and examination will be limited to the Markush-type claim and claims to the elected species, with claims drawn to species patentably distinct from the elected species held withdrawn from further consideration.

If on examination the elected species is found to be anticipated or rendered obvious by prior art, the Markush-type claim and claims to the elected species shall be rejected, and claims to the non-elected species would be held withdrawn from

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further consideration.”

The elected compound appeared to be obvious over the prior art. Therefore, the provisional election of species was given effect. Currently, all non-elected species are withdrawn from further consideration.

4. Claims 11-15 and 22-25 withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected subject matter. Applicant timely traversed the restriction requirement in the response dated June 24, 2008.

Priority

5. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority based on an application filed in Spain on May 5, 2003. It is noted, however, that applicant has not filed a certified copy of the 200301004 application as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b).

Information Disclosure Statement

6. The information disclosure statements (dated November 2, 2005 and October 17, 2006) were filed in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97 and 37 CFR 1.98. The statements were considered. Signed copies of form 1449 are enclosed herewith.

Claim Objections

7. Claims 1-10, 20 and 21 objected to for containing non-elected subject matter. The non-elected subject matter consists of compounds of Formula I that are not the elected species.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

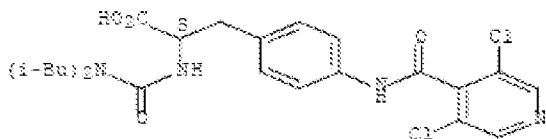
The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
 2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
 3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
 4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.
8. Claims 1-10, 20 and 21 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Fukui et al. (caplus an 2002:142667 and WO 2002014272) in view of Patani et al.

Determination of the scope and contents of prior art.

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The reference teaches the following compound as a VLA-4 antagonist



Patani et al. teaches that sulfone (SO₂) is a bioisostere of the carbonyl group. The reference teaches that sulfone moieties have been increasingly used as bioisosteres, and that the greater size associated with the sulfone moiety has been shown to be a factor that modulates biological activity (see pg. 3167).

Ascertaining the differences between prior art and instant claims.

The following modification to the prior art compound results in the instant elected species: replace carbonyl group (-CO-) with sulfone (SO₂).

Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art – Prima Facie Case of Obviousness.

One of ordinary skill would be motivated, from the disclosure in the prior art, to make the modification required to arrive at the instant invention with reasonable expectation of success for obtaining a compound with the same activity. The motivation to make the change would be to make additional compounds for the quoted purpose. The rationale relied upon is consistent with the guidelines of MPEP 2143.E., excerpts below:

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E. "Obvious To Try" – Choosing From a Finite Number of Identified, Predictable Solutions, With a Reasonable Expectation of Success

To reject a claim based on this rationale, Office personnel must resolve the *Graham* factual inquiries. Then, Office personnel must articulate the following:

(1) a finding that at the time of the invention, there had been a recognized problem or need in the art, which may include a design need or market pressure to solve a problem;

(2) a finding that there had been a finite number of identified, predictable potential solutions to the recognized need or problem;

(3) a finding that one of ordinary skill in the art could have pursued the known potential solutions with a reasonable expectation of success; and

(4) whatever additional findings based on the *Graham* factual inquiries may be necessary, in view of the facts of the case under consideration, to explain a conclusion of obviousness.

The rationale to support a conclusion that the claim would have been obvious is that "a person of ordinary skill has good reason to pursue the known options within his or her technical grasp. If this leads to the anticipated success, it is likely that product [was] not of innovation but of ordinary skill and common sense. In that instance the fact that a combination was obvious to try might show that it was obvious under § 103."

Thus, the instant claims are *prima facie* obvious over the teaching of the prior art.

Conclusion

9. No claims allowed.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sun Jae Y. Loewe whose telephone number is (571) 272-9074.

The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30-5:00 Est.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph McKane can be reached on (571)272-0699. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA).

/Sun Jae Y. Loewe, Ph.D./
7-11-2008

/Kamal A Saeed, Ph.D./
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1626